

Apr 4, 1944.

Dear Mr. Stevens,

Your letter of March 27th received and want to thank you so much for your sons picture. He was a fine looking young man and our boy seemed to like him so much.

Yes the body of Floyd arrived March 30th, I say body but mean ashes in small sealed box. We had it cremated on account of the condition they said they were in. Then of course your son's remains will be handled the same manner as ~~are~~ were. I don't mean cremated as you said you were having it sent in sealed casket. There were four released March 30 and each had Army Escort, sent from Blythe, Calif to Santa Barbara to accompany them to their destination and tell about the accident direct to you and to help in any way possible so the funeral of Floyd was yesterday Apr 3, Had the Protestant Chaplain from Minter Field to officiate and were presented with Service Flag. We had a huge crowd for Floyd was born here - his father before him. Altho we do feel something as you do about things

I asked ~~the~~ Lt. Riggs, the Army Escort about Floyd's personal effects he had on him and he didn't know anything but said he would take it up with the Army and see what can be done about it. Floyd had over \$100 on him and under \$200. wrist watch, class ring, silver wings, other small wings, his girl's and none recovered. I want to know about your son's belongings. If nothing is found and recovered from those 12 bodies. then I believe there were searchers that did find the wreckage and robbed them of everything and let them lie there without turning in the report. For as you know now they were found in the wreckage on the island. plane completely destroyed or, I mean broken into small pieces - engines and all. (I believe they were just about to make a forced landing on the water when they struck the island).

I was really glad ~~tho~~ they weren't in the ocean. Yes if you get any information pass it along. Nothing can hurt us any worse than what has already happened. But we must look at things as cheerfully as possible.

Perhaps now that our boys have passed through the valley

of the shadow of death and have made the Blest landing - Do you suppose they would trade places with us here on this sin cursed world? I don't think they would and our only hope and prayer is that we can keep up our courage and let God lead us through. I think it is a comforting thought that we meet our loved ones again. It means so much to look forward to.

Have you any news clippings from papers? I don't suppose that matters now, only for your scrap book.

I hope everything turns out all right for you and that after this war is over some of your fathers get together and make a trip out to that little island just to see it if nothing else.

May God bless you all and keep you through your hours of sorrow. With heartfelt sympathy,

Sincerely

Mrs Edna M Hart,

Bakersfield, Calif
Rt 3 Box 716.